

NOPBNRCSE



"The Alabama Link"

September 2001

NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As the newly elected president of the Alabama Chapter of the NOPBNRCSE I see this opportunity as a blessing and privilege to serve in this capacity. Reflecting back on this organization for the past 6 years I see the tremendous strides that we have made, especially in the areas of membership, self-development and the scholarship program. The state annual meetings have provided many dynamic training sessions for its members. These training sessions have enabled us to maintain a well-rounded and competent workforce that can provide high quality service to meet the needs of the citizens of Alabama. The hard work that all the members put forth for the scholarship program is very rewarding for the simple fact that we are helping young people who are trying to better themselves. The Alabama Chapter of the NOPBNRCSE has become a model for other chapters across the country.

As the president of the Alabama Chapter I will continue the legacy of excellence. I will also build on the successful aspects of our organization. I feel that in the future we will also reach into some of Alabama's needy communities to aid and enhance their quality of life. We will also continue to have cutting edge training sessions.

I am excited about serving as president of the Alabama Chapter of NOPBNRCSE.

Anthony Hudson
President, Alabama Chapter NOPBNRCSE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

"Minds are like parachutes, they only function when they are open."

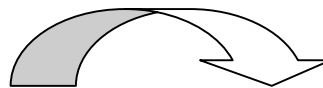
Goals

*Aim for the top. There is plenty of room there.
There are so few at the top, it is almost lonely there.*

Herbert L. Ross
Resource Inventory Specialist, Auburn, AL

Let's remember our slain victims of the
"Tragic Attack on America" on Tuesday,
September 11, 2001 and we salute all
our heroic rescue workers.

"God Bless America"



Inside

Meetings
Outreach
Membership
Scholarship Program

MEETINGS

SE REGIONAL NOPBNRCSE MEETING HELD

The Southeast Region of the National Organization of Professional Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPBNRCSE) held its 4th Annual Training Conference on June 19-20, 2001, in Burlington, North Carolina, at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center. The conference theme was *"Wildlife Considerations for Small Farms" Practical Solutions for Conservation and Income*. Over 100 members and guests from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee attended the conference. The Conference was co-hosted by North Carolina Chapter and North Carolina A&T State College.



The conference was highlighted with a guided tour of the Foxwood Plantation-Wildlife Reserve. The wildlife reserve is a 300-acre farm devoted completely to wildlife production. The Reserve is owned and operated By Mike Hester, wildlife expert and national field trail champion trainer. Foxwood is host to many first rate hunts, field trails and clients from across the nation and Canada each year.



Other technical sessions included presentations on:

- *Directing Landowners to Sources of Technical Assistance*
- *Timber Sale Agreements that Protect Landowner Interest*
- *Techniques for Managing Small Woodlots and Do-it -Yourself Logging*
- *Methods for Selling Small Lots of Timber,*
- *Use of Habitat Management Tools*
- *Life Cycle and Habitat Requirements of Quail, Rabbit, and Grassland Songbirds*
- *Leasing Hunting Rights for Income and Other Farm Benefits*

The conference climaxed with a Luncheon and Awards Ceremony with the Keynote Address given by Dwight Holman, Deputy Chief for Management, USDA, NRCS.

Members from Alabama Chapter in attendance were Andrew Williams, Johnny Trayvick, Sebastian Thomas, Herbert Ross, Sarah Walker, Shirley Cole, and Lawrence McGhee. The Conference was well organized and supplied excellent material for professional development.

Lawrence McGhee
Project Leader, Alexander City, AL

ALABAMA CHAPTER MEETING HELD

The Alabama Chapter of the National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPBNRCSE) held their 7th Annual Meeting on August 2-3, 2001, in Huntsville, Alabama. The conference was hosted at the Courtyard by Marriott and toured at Oakwood College.

Outgoing Officers:



Left to Right:

Andrew Williams – President
Anthony Hudson - Vice-President
Shirley Hall-Cole - Interim Treasurer
Chandra Berry - Recording Secretary
Johnny Trayvick – Parliamentarian
Sebastian Thomas - Historian

After accomplishing several objectives in the business meeting, the new officers for 2001-2003:



Left to Right:

Anthony Hudson – President
Chandra Berry - Vice President
Lawrence McGhee - Recording Secretary
Chris Ford - Administrative Assistant
Shirley Hall-Cole – Treasurer
Herbert Ross – Parliamentarian
Sebastian Thomas – Historian

This new leadership will continue to drive the chapter and take our focus and activities to the next level.

Presentations made during the business session.



Andrews Williams presented a "*Distinguished Service Award*" to Deloris Jones, for years of unsurpassed dedication and service to the mission of the Alabama Chapter and the NOPBNRCSE.



Williams along with Chapter Officers presented a "*Distinguished Service Award*" to Johnny Trayvick for his years of dedication and service to the Alabama Chapter and the NOPBNRCSE. Johnny is an official lifetime member of the NOPBNRCSE.

Three dynamic presenters at the conference all emphasized the importance of correct information when planning for business or financial opportunities. The first was Mrs. Iraline Smith of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, North Alabama Chapter, who wowed the membership with her experiences in seeking her history and family lineage. Within small communities, our members can encourage this type of research to gain greater perspective of our natural resources, past and present.

We fast-forwarded our presentations with financial planning within small farming communities. Mrs. Kandace Johnson-Gupta of Primerica Financial Services inspired the membership to reevaluate their procedures for farming operations, retirement planning and beyond. This speaker hit home the point of financial planning is most important even though it is sometimes risky but can always pay off in the end.

Our keynote speaker was Mr. Tom L. Larkin, of Tipler Law Offices whose presentation of planning for estate or heir property is most crucial in retaining land ownership, especially within families. Our membership was enlightened with the new law standards and policies concerning estates and heir responsibilities. Many will share this information with their families, and their communities.

The Alabama Chapter of the Organization continues to display high integrity within its realm of responsibilities to achieve development opportunities through networking, education and training our employees to thereby enhance community development in natural resources management. These high standards set our organization from others and reiterate our commitment to the mission of the agency and to conservation.

OAKWOOD COLLEGE TOUR

The membership of the Alabama Chapter of the NOPBNRCSE had an insightful tour and experience

reliving some of Alabama's history. Mrs. Minneola Dixon, the Archives Librarian, explained to the group the fundamental principles in which Oakwood College was founded. Dating back to the 1890s off the Mississippi River, the institution of educating disadvantage people still holds high value to their principle mission of creating a spiritual atmosphere while encouraging productive students.

Mrs. Dixon, an alumna of Oakwood, was very passionate about the colorful history the college holds, and the diverse students who have graduated and succeeded. Mrs. Dixon made the connection of what Oakwood College does for minorities and what the Natural Resources Conservation Service does for its clientele - sustain and improve our resources.



Pictured: Mrs. Dixon, 3rd from left on front row, with Alabama Chapter members in front of Oakwood College.

Chandra Berry
District Conservationist, Columbiana, AL

ANNUAL MEETINGS

9th Annual NOPBNRCSE Meeting
Memphis, TN - November 25-30, 2001

Annual PAWC
Tuskegee, AL - December 2001

OUTREACH

Outreach is a way of conducting business to ensure that the under-served individuals and groups throughout the United States and its territories are made aware of, understand, and have a working knowledge of USDA programs and services. Outreach will ensure that these programs and services are equitable and made accessible to all.

Outreach recognizes the participation of under-served customers as a part of the way we do business. However, in helping under-served communities and groups, we find that traditional

programs are sometimes difficult for them to participate in due to economic, cultural, social, and other barriers. Therefore, we have designed projects and partnerships to help the agency enhance and encourage participation in USDA programs by under-served communities and groups. A few of the program deliver efforts in FY2001:

- **Field Office** – Many District Conservationists have established outreach programs and concepts at the field office level that have increased participation of minority and under-served groups through EQIP priority areas, District Cost-Share Programs, and special emphasis FIP funds.

- **Southern Beef Growers Small Farm Diversity Project** – This is a small farm project that is sponsored by the Ala-Tom RC&D Council. The purpose of this project is to show how a small farm can be diversified and provide supplemental income for rural families..
- **Small Farm Pasture Improvement Project** – This project is being sponsored and administered by the Mid-South RC&D Council. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate at the small farm level the use and management of native grasses to improve small farm grazing programs.
- **Forestry Awareness and Technical Assistance Project** – This project, sponsored by the Mid-South RC&D Council, provides outreach technical assistance to minority landowners in targeted counties. A well-trained professional minority forester has been available for three years to provide assistance as a private forester or consultant. The goal of this effort is to provide equal and fair treatment for all forest landowners within the industry.

Andrew Williams
Outreach Coordinator, Auburn, AL

MEMBERSHIP

Our Chapter is still reaching out for employees to join The Organization. Membership is open to all.

For a membership application contact:

Sarah M. Walker
Chairperson, Membership Committee
USDA-NRCS, 3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334-887-4580

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Les Hilliard Scholarship Program is designed to provide a one-time monetary payment to a student pursuing a degree in agriculture, natural resource science, or a related science.

Anyone wishing to make a donation should contact:

Shirley Hall-Cole, Chairperson
Les Hilliard Scholarship Program
USDA-NRCS, 3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, AL 36830
Phone: 334-887-4546.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Deloris Jones
Chris Ford
Lawrence McGhee